



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

October 21, 2005

News Release

SELF-PROFESSED OSAMA BIN LADEN BOUNTY HUNTER SENTENCED *Attempted to bring weapons and ammunition aboard a commercial aircraft*

DETROIT — A Texas man who claimed to be a bounty hunter in hopes of collecting the \$25 million reward money on Osama bin Laden, was sentenced here today in U. S. District Court for illegally bringing various weapons and ammunition aboard an aircraft. The investigation was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Matt Mihsen, 47, a Chandler, Texas, resident and a naturalized United States citizen from Syria, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Denise Page Hood to time served and one-year supervised release after pleading guilty to failure to report that he brought ammunition aboard an airplane.

Mihsen was apprehended Feb. 15 while attempting to depart Detroit International Airport to Amsterdam, Netherlands, with a connecting flight in Damascus, Syria. Before boarding his flight, ICE special agents and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers examined his possessions. The examination revealed various weapons and accessories, including: three radiation detectors, one bulletproof vest, 40 rounds of 9mm Black Talon ammunition, one handheld taser device, one rifle scope, one spray can of mace, and \$13,256 in unreported currency. Mihsen is a registered private investigator, pilot and truck driver.

Mihsen admitted to ICE agents that he was conducting an independent investigation in the hope of collecting the \$25 million reward offered by the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security for information leading to the arrest of Osama bin Laden.

“This case shows the important public safety aspects of our aggressive outbound operations,” said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the ICE Detroit office. “Working with our partners at Customs and Border Protection, our joint efforts kept potentially dangerous items off a cross-Atlantic passenger plane, and they may have prevented acts of violence overseas.” Moskowitz heads the ICE Office of Investigations for Michigan and Ohio.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Oberg, Eastern District of Michigan, prosecuted this case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.